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NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS MEMORABLE

Largest Attendance in History and Many Problems of Vital Interest to the Country Are Discussed.

(Special Correspondence of Advertiser)

The seventeenth National Irrigation Congress was held at Spokane, Washington, from August 9 to 14 last, fully one thousand delegates being present, the largest attendance in the history of the organization. Representing the Territory of Hawaii were Ralph S. Hosmer, Superintendent of Forestry; W. H. Babbitt, Superintendent of Education; J. T. Taylor, Augustus Knudsen, E. Lord, and L. G. Blackburn, editor Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist.

During the week of the proceedings many excellent papers were read and much valuable data was submitted upon irrigation and conservation subjects. In this brief account merely an outline of the work of the Hawaiian delegates will be given and of that part of the transactions of interest to the Territory.

Corporate Interests at Work.

Early in the day a note of warning was sounded by Mayor Pratt in his address, of a prospective conflict between the corporate interests and the United States Reclamation Service. The speaker stated that capital might be used to hamper the work of the convention and that the large corporate interests were represented in many of the delegations and might attempt to dominate the committees.

Telegram From President Taft.

The first direct encouragement received by the Hawaii delegation was found in the telegram from President Taft addressed to the National Irrigation Congress, which read as follows: "I greatly regret that I am not able to be present to hear the discussions and get the benefit of your deliberations. I have the deepest sympathy with the general objects of the National Irrigation Congress and you can count on my earnest endeavors to further the cause of reclamation by irrigation in every part of the country within the jurisdiction of the Federal government."

The address of George E. Barnstow, president of the seventeenth irrigation congress, emphasized the national importance of irrigation projects generally and urged upon the Federal government to issue bonds to enable the completion and extension of reclamation work. He said in part:

Bond Issue Needed.

"I desire to impress upon this congress the importance of taking prompt steps to give the Federal government to understand that the people of the nation demand that the reclamation fund shall forthwith be supplemented by the creation and sale from time to time of gold bonds to the sum of five hundred million dollars."

"This same principle finds its application as to the reclamation of our swamp lands, and improvement of our natural waterways. When all these arid lands shall have been cultivated by irrigation, we shall have opportunity for about 25,000,000 additional population, with an annual increase of agricultural products amounting to \$6,500,000,000."

Water Our Chief Asset.

"Without question, water is the chief asset of our people. To properly safeguard the headwaters of all our national rivers and tributaries; to impound these waters for irrigation and power development, means a twofold blessing to our people by distributing vast commercial advantages on one hand, and saving enormous destruction on the other."

"This congress is in sympathy with that great effort for commercial development of our natural waterways. Such are their importance to the nation that some of the leading minds of the country have conceived the idea of a national department of public works, with a secretary who shall be a member of the President's cabinet."

Work of Hawaiian Delegates.

At the conclusion of the first day's official proceedings the Hawaiian committee busied itself in endeavoring to interest influential members of the congress in the special needs of Hawaii, particularly in the extension to this Territory of the Federal irrigation appropriation for the reclamation of arid lands, as a means toward procuring white settlers to build up in the islands a substantial and responsible body of landowners and homebuilders in full sympathy with national ideas and American traditions. For this purpose the respective members of the delegation had for some time made themselves familiar with data relating to the manifold phases of land tenure and values in Hawaii, the various landowners in the Territory, population statistics, particularly as affecting the proportion of various races, the different classes of agricultural land and areas capable of reclamation by irrigation systems, the extent and possibility of development of various industries of the islands, and other questions touching upon conditions relative to the development of Hawaii. By a systematic canvass, the needs of the Territory at the hands of the Federal government were brought before a great number of the influential members of the congress, and a favorable opinion created toward the extension of the national reclamation system to Hawaii. This work was also actively carried on throughout the week, and, together with the distribution of literature and pamphlets of various kinds, very general interest in Hawaiian affairs was created. Although the amount of work involved in this campaign of education was considerable, it was encouraging to find how desirous the individual members were of being informed of Hawaiian conditions, and how friendly was the attitude already existing toward the islands. By the end of the week it was an unusual thing to see anyone connected with the congress who did not display the well-known Hawaiian but-

ton. In some cases requests for badges in large numbers were made, and a great deal of interest and enthusiasm created by their use.

Hawaiian Resolution Introduced.

The session on Tuesday, the second day of the congress, was a particularly important one to the islands as the resolution of the Hawaiian delegation was then introduced, to be adopted later in the week. The resolution read as follows:

Whereas, The rapidly growing commercial and naval interests of the United States upon the Pacific coast emphasize the strategic value of the Hawaiian Islands to the nation; and

Whereas, To enable the Territory of Hawaii to respond to the duties placed upon it there is required on the islands a large, vigorous, self-reliant American community; and

Whereas, The Territory of Hawaii in what has already been done, including the recent levying of a special income tax to assist immigration and encourage the conservation of natural resources, has approached the limit of its own ability in an effort to develop the country along traditional American lines; and

Whereas, It appears that one of the most practicable ways to secure the necessary increase of actual American homes in the Territory is through the extension to Hawaii of the Federal reclamation act; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the National Irrigation Congress urges the Congress of the United States to extend the reclamation act of June 17, 1902, to the Territory of Hawaii.

Pinchot's Speech.

On this day too Mr. Pinchot, chairman of the National Conservation Commission, delivered his speech directed very largely against the control of water-power sites by large corporate interests exploited against the common welfare. Mr. Pinchot's address is so characteristic and important that a lengthy extract from it follows:

"The most valuable citizen of this or any other country is the man who owns the land from which he makes his living. No other man has such a stake in the country. No other man lends such steadiness and stability to our national life. Therefore, no other question concerns us more intimately than the question of homes. Permanent homes for ourselves, our children and our nation—this is the central problem."

"The policy of national irrigation is of value to the United States in very many ways, but the greatest of all is this, that national irrigation multiplies the men who own the land from which they make their living."

Want More Farmers.

"Our country began as a nation of farmers. During the periods that gave it its character, when our independence was won and when our Union was preserved, we were preeminently a nation of farmers. We can not, and we ought not, to continue exclusively, or even chiefly, an agricultural country, because one man can raise food enough for many. But the farmer who owns his land is still the backbone of this nation; and one of the things we want most is more of him."

"The nation that will lead the world will be a nation of homes. The object of the great conservation movement is just this, to make our country a permanent and prosperous home for ourselves and for our children, and for our children's children, and it is a task that is worth the best thought and effort of any and all of us."

"The first thing we need in this country, as President Roosevelt so well set forth in that great message, which told what he had been trying to do for the American people, is equality of opportunity for every citizen. No man should have less and no man ought to ask for any more. Equality of opportunity is the real object of our laws and constitutions."

"Our institutions and our laws are not valuable in themselves. They are valuable only because they secure equality of opportunity for the happiness and welfare of our citizens. An institution or a law is a means, not an end, a means to be used for the public good, to be modified for the public good, and to be interpreted for the public good."

"To follow blindly the letter of the law, without intelligent regard for its spirit and for public welfare, is very nearly as dangerous as to disregard the law altogether. What we need is the use of the law for the public good, and the construction of it for the public welfare."

Square Deal for Every Man.

"Equality of opportunity, a square deal for every man, the protection of the citizen against the great concentrations of capital, the intelligent use of laws and institutions for the public good, and the conservation of our natural resources, not for the trusts, but for the people; these are real issues and real problems. Upon such things as these the perpetuity of this country as a nation of homes really depends."

"We are coming to see that the simple things are the things to work for. More than that, we are coming to see that the plain American citizen is the man to work for. The imagination is staggered by the magnitude of the prize for which we work. If we succeed, there will exist upon this continent a sane, strong people, living through the centuries in a land subdued and controlled for the services of the people, its rightful masters, owned by the many and not by the few. If we fail, the great interests, increasing their control of our natural resources, will thereby control the country more and more, and the rights of the people will fade into the privileges of concentrated wealth."

Sees Water-Power Trust.

"There could be no better illustration of the eager, rapid, unwearied ab-

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We will satisfy you as to quality, price and delivery.

Haw'n Gazette Co., Ltd

VIGOROUS OLD AGE

Even ruddy-cheeked youth is not more beautiful than the mature vigor of healthy old age. This, however, is not seen so often as it should be, partly because many persons mistakenly suppose that weakness and ill-health are inseparable from ripe maturity of years.

Yet it is the majority of cases enfeebled old persons require nothing but the simple, natural treatment afforded by

Stearns' Wine of Cod Liver Extract

which acts by increasing the appetite, aiding digestion and putting more iron into the blood. It has neither the taste nor smell of cod liver oil, but is as pleasant to the taste as a superior table wine. It is as valuable to old persons as to young ones and many of its most remarkable effects have been achieved with the aged. Get it at your chemist's and be sure you get STEARNS'—the genuine.